Docket No. 99-063-MIS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Path Balancing Apparatus and Method

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An apparatus and method for workload balancing along
multiple communication paths to a plurality of devices.
The apparatus includes a controller that accumulates path
usage information and a path balancing device that makes
10 use of the accumulated path usage information to perform
a path balancing operation. The path balancing method
involves the path balancing device calculating the total
expected connect time for all I/O messages issued to each
of a plurality of peripheral devices during a predefined
15 sampling period. These totals are then added for each
communication path for the sampling period to obtain path
totals. The path totals are then compared to see if a
difference between the highest used path and the lowest
used path is greater than a threshold amount. If the
20 difference is higher than the threshold amount, the
peripheral device having a total expected connect time
that is closest to a target value is moved from the
highest used path to the lowest used path.